GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1370
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2001
EXPORT OF TINNED FOOD PRODUCTS
P.D. ELANGOVAN

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to promote the export of tinned food items;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the export of such items like pickles and fruit pulp play a vital role in fetching millions of dollars to India as foreign exchange every year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to improve the magnitude of the export of these items from the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

a) : Yes, Sir.
b) : The Government has been implementing various assistance schemes for promoting the export of processed and tinned food items. These include schemes for promoting quality of the products and its packaging, infrastructure development and undertaking studies for the promotion of various products. The following specific steps have been undertaken to promote processed and tinned food items:

- Comprehensive studies have been undertaken for identifying the technological and other requirements for the promotion of processed pineapple, processed Lychees, Passion fruit and Health foods;
- A study for improving the export packaging of frozen fruits and vegetables is to be undertaken during the current year;
- A research project on management of pests and diseases in Gherkins spread over a period of three years is being undertaken;
- Exporters are provided assistance for pesticide residue testing for fruits and vegetables to enable them effectively meet the international requirements on pesticide residue levels;
- Mango pulp processing units have been provided assistance for implementation of quality systems such as Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) and certified. Programmes for technology upgradation of mango processing units have also been undertaken;

c) & d): The export of processed items like pickles and fruit pulp and other processed fruits and vegetables earn annual foreign exchange of around US$ 20 million.

e) : The promotional measures taken by the Government to improve the exports of tinned food products include the following:

(i) Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international trade fairs and exhibitions;

(ii) Interacting with State Governments to promote exports of products having potential for exports from the individual states.

(iii) Conducting awareness/ training/ technical assistance programmes to growers/ exporters on quality assurance and quality management and food safety systems to meet international requirements.

(iv) Setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various international Airports.